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THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

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BOSTON BRANCH.—The first meeting for the season of the Boston Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas was held at St. Stephen's on the evening of September 24. A fair number were present and much interest was manifested. In his address our chaplain spoke on words from the Epistle for the week, "I therefore . . . beseech you, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called," exhorting us to take up the winter's work in its proper and Christ-like spirit. At the business-meeting delegates were chosen for the coming council, the associates being Miss Sargent or Mrs. Sprague, the members Miss Morris or Miss Barbrick. Mention was made of the Quiet Day for nurses which had been held by Father Osborne at St. Margaret's the Sunday preceding. About forty were present, and the subject for the addresses was the life of St. Matthew, on whose day the retreat was held.

Beginning with the Holy Eucharist at eight, addresses were given at ten, with Morning Prayer, and at two, three, and four, ending with Evensong and address at six.

At each address a little service was held, consisting of a hymn, prayers, and meditation on the subjects suggested by the address.

These subjects were *obedience* and *courage*, as shown by St. Matthew in answering the call, "Follow me;" *constancy*, in adhering to the command; *willingness* and *humility*, in carrying out the life necessary to his discipleship.

In his application of these lessons to a nurse's life, Father Osborne spoke of the nurse's *vocation*, which is Christ's "Follow me." The nurse is made instrumental in relieving and curing His sick; she has a *duty* to the soul as well as to the body of her patient, and must recognize the necessity of giving out sympathy, but of controlling her own feelings and not demanding sympathy from her patient. Her *relation to her fellow-workers, to church work, and her church duties* were also dwelt upon. Silence was kept all day. We who have been privileged to attend retreats at St. Margaret's know what helpful, restful days they are, and how the reverend brother and the sisters devote themselves to the comfort of their guests.

I am sure the nurses in Boston are sorry to lose Mr. Trenholm, who has gone to England for a considerable period of time. His kindness and interest were felt by all, and some of the nurses much enjoyed the Bible-class held by him at the House of the Good Samaritan on Thursday evenings. We hope we may some day welcome him back.

We have lately seen a copy of the *Misericordia*, the publication of the English Guild of St. Barnabas, and a very delightful little sheet it is. The particular number mentioned gave an account of the festival meeting and the sermon of the Bishop of London; it also spoke of Bishop Whitehead's presence and address. Judging from the description of the meeting, there must have been much fun and good feeling. We wish it were possible to exchange with our English sisters, but the difference in price between their sheet and ours might stand in the way.

ORANGE, N. J.—The first meeting after the Annual Day always has a special attraction of its own. It is much to be regretted that the day was so stormy that it kept many away who would otherwise have been present, particularly those who were to have been admitted, about eighteen names being on the waiting-list. We met at Grace Church, Orange. The Rev. Oscar Moore was admitted as priest associate. The chaplain, the Rev. Alexander Mann, gave an address of welcome and encouragement, impressing upon his hearers the necessity of always pressing forward in their life as individuals and as a guild. A business meeting followed in the Parish House adjoining. The work of the coming year was discussed and committees appointed to draw up the calendar, which now has almost superseded the old-time postal-card notices, and to gather suggestions for our sewing-parties, which begin by being monthly and during Lent are held weekly. Members were exhorted to consider the subject of the *News-Letter* and to attend the next meeting, to be held again at Grace Church, in large numbers.

In the last week of July and after a prolonged illness, most patiently endured, Mrs. Agnes Victor was called to her Eternal Home, and gained the rest she had well earned.

BOSTON.—St. Martin's House, 33 Bradford Street, South End, Boston, was opened in April for the benefit of the colored people of that neighborhood under the supervision of the Rev. C. N. Field, S. S. J. E., of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boston. Work was carried on through the summer with a good result. A flower mission, play room, sewing class, and singing classes were means of gaining a hold upon the people. Picnics and car-rides gave pleasant outings. A Sunday-school and a Thursday evening service have both been well attended. Plans for the winter's work have been formed, and if the necessary funds are forthcoming, everything points to a good year. A kindergarten and industrial work of different kinds for boys and girls will be carried on, also a reading-room for men. It is a work which was greatly needed in that neighborhood, and its effect has already been felt. The children have responded readily, and it is only necessary to appoint a day and hour, and long before the time a crowd assembles about the door. Visiting has been done in the houses of the people, and a general idea of the neighborhood has been acquired. The house is in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Moore, and visitors are welcome.

NEWPORT BRANCH.—The annual meeting of the guild was held June 19, 1902, at half-past three p.m., at St. George's Church. Rev. Mr. Beattie, rector of St. John's, conducted the guild office and presided over the business meeting. There was a celebration of the Holy Communion at St. George's on St. Barnabas Day, at which the Rev. Emery Porter, D.D., delivered an address to the members of the guild.

Our branch has lost from its numbers an active member, Miss Harriet I. Ancient, who died at her home in Halifax, N. S., on the morning of August 2. She was graduated from the Newport Hospital in the spring of 1902, and had been doing private nursing during the summer.

SYRACUSE BRANCH.—Our guild held its first fall meeting Thursday, September 18. Devotional services were held at St. Paul's Chapel, and a business and social hour in the parlors of the Women's Union, the hostesses being Mrs. James H. Hinman and Mrs. S. L. Kane, associates. A goodly number were

present, and awakened interest was shown. It was decided to hold the social meetings alternately afternoon and evening, as it is expected in this way more of our members may be able to be present. Means for increasing the number of our associates were suggested, and the outlook for the coming year is encouraging.

Our guild has been most delightfully entertained since January last by the members belonging to the Women and Children's Hospital, also by those of the Hospital of the Good Shepherd. The associates greatly enjoy having the members as hostesses, as we are always sure of meeting a large gathering of nurses.

On April 15 a bazaar was held in the assembly-room of the Women and Children's Hospital for the "benefit fund." Fancy articles, flowers, and refreshments were sold, and music and dancing were features of the evening. One hundred and thirty dollars was added to the fund. This was the first gathering since February, no social hour being indulged in during Lent; business meetings only were held during that season.

On St. Barnabas Day Holy Communion was celebrated at six A.M. in Grace Church, Rev. Mr. Coddington, chaplain of the guild and rector of the church, being celebrant. The church is in the immediate vicinity of the Hospital of the Good Shepherd, consequently more than the usual number of members were able to be present.

On July 12 a picnic was held at Edwards's Hall, a pretty spot about fourteen miles from Syracuse. The day was fine and the outing made more than usually enjoyable by a courteous invitation from Colonel Verbeck, head master of St. John's Military School at Manlius, to attend the commencement exercises in the afternoon. Military drills and a sham battle by the cadets, followed by refreshments served in tents on the campus, ended the day.

The annual sermon to the guild was preached, as usual, by our chaplain in Grace Church.

AN OLD FASHION.—Perhaps some of us who cherish in our drawing-rooms or nurseries copies of Luca della Robbia's exquisite bambinos are not aware that these bas-reliefs of the fifteenth century are as much "in style" now as when they were executed.

Even in the Italian quarter of Boston to-day the babies are swathed in the good old-fashioned style, and it is stoutly claimed by the parents that such a method of wrapping keeps the little figures straight, and particularly that it prevents bow-legs.

The little creatures look like tiny mummies in their swaddling-bands, but they certainly must be conveniently handled thus securely tied, and we fancy it would be a relief neither to feel the squirming of the little tots, nor to be frightened by the spasmodic jumps that so many babies give.

It surely must be a work of art to swaddle an infant in this way. The baby's only garment is a little wool shirt; the arms are put down by the sides and the body is wrapped in fine linen and a padded square of quilting, and over this is wound yards and yards of—we had almost said bandaging, and certainly it resembles that in the skill with which it is put on. A ribbon finishes the dear little bundles, and until the children are a year old this custom is kept up. Certainly no Italian baby can be guilty of sucking his thumb! After the first birthday the arms are left free and only the lower part of the body is swaddled for six months longer, when the little one is put into short dresses. Sweet indeed must the cooing bundle be to the eyes of its own people, who thus keep up the good old custom in a foreign land.